

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Office of the State Fire Marshal *State Fire Marshal Mary Corso*

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Fire District and Kiwanis in Lacey, Wash., Win Jensen Award NFPA Honors Their Successful Collaboration on Smoke Alarm Campaign

Chief Ronal W. Serpas announced today that Thurston County Fire District Three, located in Lacey, Washington, and the Lacey Sunsetters Kiwanis Club have won the national Rolf H. Jensen Partners in Public Education Award from the National Fire Protection Association for their successful "Smoke Detector Check-up Campaign."

State Fire Marshal Mary Corso commends Lacey Fire District Three and the Lacey Sunsetters Kiwanis Club for their commitment to public safety. "This is an example of a community group and the fire service working collectively to provide exemplary public service to the citizens of their community."

The Jensen Award recognizes an outstanding collaboration between a fire service and a private-sector group in implementing a fire-safety education program. The NFPA awarded the honor today at the NFPA World Safety Conference & Exposition™ in Dallas.

Since 1993, Lacey Fire District Three and the Lacey Sunsetters Kiwanis Club have teamed up for a door-to-door campaign checking for smoke alarms. Each year, they identify a geographical area encompassing 300 to 350 residences. Residents are notified ahead of time when the survey will take place, and teams of trained Kiwanians and fire district personnel visit each home to see if working smoke alarms are in place. The teams provide smoke alarms to those who don't have them, inspect and replace batteries in the devices, and replace those that are 10 years old or older. They also distribute literature on the proper placement and cleaning of alarms.

Survey information about residential alarms is compiled into a report comparing the community with results from previous years and with state and national statistics. When the campaign returned to several areas it had previously surveyed, it found an increased number of working alarms in place.

Lacey Fire District Three serves a community of 70 square miles and 70,000 people with a median income of \$29,426. The "Smoke Detector Check-up Campaign" has canvassed more than 3,500 residences. Since it began, the number of people seeking information about smoke alarms has increased.

Lacey Fire District Three and the Lacey Sunsetters Kiwanis Club recently reaffirmed their commitment to the partnership and set a target of increasing by 5 percent each year the number

of homes protected by working alarms. In the coming year, the partnership will focus on providing alarms to people with low incomes and older adults. They will also focus on distributing alarms with strobe lights for people with hearing impairments.

The Rolf H. Jensen Award was named for the founder of one of the largest fire protection consulting firms in the world. Recipients are chosen based on these criteria: demonstration of a working partnership between a private-sector entity and a fire agency; ongoing collaboration between the partners; implementation of a fire-safety education campaign within the community; documentation of the program's success; and assessment of the partnership.

For this and other NFPA Headlines, please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/PressRoom/index.asp>.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of fire protection systems and school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data. For additional information, you may visit our web page at www.wsp.wa.gov and then click on State Fire Marshal.

For more information on smoke alarms, please contact your local fire department or the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (360) 753-0400.

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